

ITEM: 23

SUBJECT: Barrel Ten Quarter Circle Land Company, Barrel Ten Quarter Circle, Escalon Cellars

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements*

BACKGROUND: Barrel Ten Quarter Circle, Escalon Cellars owns and operates a winery near Escalon in San Joaquin County. A winery has existed at the location since the 1890's. The facility is presently operated as a non-distilling, non-crushing, non-fermenting wine finishing and storage facility. However, the Discharger has decided to resume grape crushing and fermenting but not distilling or bottling activities.

Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R5-2003-0125 was adopted in response to groundwater quality degradation beneath the Land Application Areas (LAAs). The CDO allowed the Discharger time to perform studies and design a wastewater system that would halt the continuing groundwater degradation. The Discharger performed the studies and submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD). The RWD proposed significant changes to the winery, including new wastewater treatment systems, an increase in wine production, and a reduction of LAA acreage.

The tentative WDRs contain a time schedule for the Discharger to perform technical studies to determine protective effluent standards and design/construct improvements at the facility. All improvements must be completed by 26 November 2012.

The tentative WDRs allow a monthly average maximum flow limit of 160,000 gallons per day and an annual total of 48,000,000 gallons of wastewater/stormwater mixtures per year. Because the Discharger has limited wastewater storage capacity, wastewater must be discharged soon after generation. Effluent limits for Fixed Dissolved Solids (FDS) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) are included in the Order. The FDS concentration limit reduces the allowable concentration of FDS from 2,000 mg/L when the WDRs are adopted, to 750 mg/L by 1 February 2013. A BOD loading limit of 500 lbs/ac/day is in the order to prevent overloading the LAAs. Wastewater is applied by flood irrigation.

The Crop Uptake and Assimilative Capacity (CUAC) study that is specified within the WDRs will determine sustainable LAA loading rates that will not degrade groundwater quality. Data collected in the CUAC study will be used to design wastewater improvements in the Facility Upgrade Workplan. All improvements shall be completed by 26 November 2012.

ISSUES: The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) is contesting the proposed Order; in addition, the Discharger's consultant prepared a response to the CSPA comments. Staff's response to both documents is

contained in the Response to Comments document included in the Regional Water Board's agenda package.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Regional Water Board adopt the Waste Discharge Requirements.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review LTO

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